

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A spinning reel, comprising:

a reel unit provided with a handle and a spool shaft, said reel unit including a reel body having a housing space in the interior thereof, and a lid member detachably fixed to said reel body and closing said housing space;

a rotor supported so as to be rotatable around said spool shaft;

a spool arranged in front of said rotor for winding fishing line, said spool being mounted fore-end wise on said spool shaft;

a sliding member ~~adapted to be~~ mounted on the spool shaft immovably relative to said the spool shaft at least in the spool shaft axial direction;

shifting means for reciprocating said sliding member in the spool shaft axial direction in cooperation with rotation of said the handle; and

at least one guide shaft ~~adapted to be~~ supported by said reel unit in a plurality of locations on an outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft for guiding said sliding member in a direction substantially parallel to said spool shaft, said guide shaft having a position-restricting portion for preventing said guide shaft from being disengaged from said reel unit in at least one axial direction, said position-restricting portion including an annular groove formed on said outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft and a plate-shaped member having a U-shaped groove that is detachably and reattachably fitted to said annular groove, said plate-shaped member being pressed toward said guide shaft by said lid member.

13. (Currently Amended) The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18 ~~12~~, wherein:

said reel unit has a plurality of support portions that are formed thereon so as to be aligned with one another, said guide shaft being inserted, along the axial direction of said guide shaft[[,]] through said plurality of support portions such that said an outer

circumferential surface of said guide shaft is entirely circumferentially supported by said plurality of support portions; and

 said position-restricting portion includes an annular groove formed on said outer circumferential surface ~~circumference~~ of said guide shaft and a retainer member detachably and reattachably fitted to said annular groove, said retainer member contacting a side of one of said plurality of support portions opposite a side where said guide shaft is inserted, such that disengagement of said guide shaft from said support portions is prohibited in a direction opposite the direction in which said guide shaft is inserted into said support portions.

14. (Original) The spinning reel as set forth in claim 13, wherein
 said retainer member is a snap ring detachably and elastically locked in said annular groove.

15. (Original) The spinning reel as set forth in claim 13, wherein
 said retainer member is a retaining spring formed by bending a metal wire into a hairpin contour, and locked detachably and elastically in said annular groove.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) The spinning reel as set forth in claim 13, wherein
 said retainer member is contacting one of said plurality of support portions on a side closer to a side of said reel unit on which fishing line is reeled out.

18. (Currently Amended) A The spinning reel, comprising: ~~as set forth in claim 13,~~
 wherein

a reel unit provided with a handle and a spool shaft;
 a rotor supported so as to be rotatable around said spool shaft;
 a spool arranged in front of said rotor for winding fishing line, said spool being mounted fore-end wise on said spool shaft;
 a sliding member mounted on the spool shaft immovably relative to said spool shaft at least in the spool shaft axial direction;

shifting means for reciprocating said sliding member in the spool shaft axial direction in cooperation with rotation of said handle; and

at least one guide shaft supported by said reel unit in a plurality of locations on an outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft for guiding said sliding member in a direction substantially parallel to said spool shaft, said guide shaft having a position-restricting portion for preventing said guide shaft from being disengaged from said reel unit in at least one axial direction,

said reel unit having a plurality of support portions that are formed thereon so as to be aligned with one another, said guide shaft being inserted, along the axial direction of said guide shaft through said plurality of support portions such that said outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft is entirely circumferentially supported by said plurality of support portions,

said position-restricting portion including an annular groove formed on said outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft and a retainer member detachably and reattachably fitted to said annular groove, said retainer member contacting a side of one of said plurality of support portions opposite a side where said guide shaft is inserted, such that disengagement of said guide shaft from said support portions is prohibited in a direction opposite the direction in which said guide shaft is inserted into said support portions,

 said reel unit further including includes a positioning projection boss, and

 said guide shaft coming comes into contact with said positioning projection boss when said guide shaft is inserted from the rear of said reel unit, such that an insertion-direction position of said guide shaft is determined.

19. (Currently Amended) A The spinning reel, comprising as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

a reel unit provided with a handle and a spool shaft;

a rotor supported so as to be rotatable around said spool shaft;

a spool arranged in front of said rotor for winding fishing line, said spool being mounted fore-end wise on said spool shaft;

a sliding member mounted on the spool shaft immovably relative to said spool shaft at least in the spool shaft axial direction;

shifting means for reciprocating said sliding member in the spool shaft axial direction in cooperation with rotation of said handle; and

at least one guide shaft supported by said reel unit in a plurality of locations on an outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft for guiding said sliding member in a direction substantially parallel to said spool shaft, said guide shaft having a position-restricting portion for preventing said guide shaft from being disengaged from said reel unit in at least one axial direction,

said reel unit having a plurality of support portions that are formed thereon so as to be aligned with one another, said guide shaft being inserted, along the axial direction of said guide shaft through said plurality of support portions such that said outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft is entirely circumferentially supported by said plurality of support portions,

said position-restricting portion including an annular groove formed on said outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft and a retainer member detachably and reattachably fitted to said annular groove, said retainer member contacting a side of one of said plurality of support portions opposite a side where said guide shaft is inserted, such that disengagement of said guide shaft from said support portions is prohibited in a direction opposite the direction in which said guide shaft is inserted into said support portions,

said guide shaft having has an interlocking portion formed at an insertion-direction rear end portion, said interlocking portion interlocking said guide shaft with one of said plurality of support portions that is at rearmost end in the insertion direction, ; and

an insertion-direction position of said guide shaft being determined by interlocking of said interlocking portion into said support portion, an insertion direction position of said guide shaft is determined.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spinning reel, comprising as set forth in claim 12, wherein:

a reel unit provided with a handle and a spool shaft;

a rotor supported so as to be rotatable around said spool shaft;

a spool arranged in front of said rotor for winding fishing line, said spool being mounted fore-end wise on said spool shaft;

a sliding member mounted on the spool shaft immovably relative to said spool shaft at least in the spool shaft axial direction;

shifting means for reciprocating said sliding member in the spool shaft axial direction in cooperation with rotation of said handle; and

at least one guide shaft supported by said reel unit in a plurality of locations on an outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft for guiding said sliding member in a direction substantially parallel to said spool shaft, said guide shaft having a position-restricting portion for preventing said guide shaft from being disengaged from said reel unit in at least one axial direction,

said reel unit having has a plurality of support portions that are formed thereon and aligned along an axial direction, said guide shaft being inserted, along the axial direction of said guide shaft, through said plurality of support portions such that said ~~an~~ outer circumferential surface of said guide shaft is entirely circumferentially supported by said plurality of support portions; and

said position-restricting portion includes two annular grooves and two snap rings that are detachably and reattachably fitted to said annular grooves, ~~said snap rings contacting both side surfaces of one of said plurality of support portions, such that said support portion is sandwiched by said snap rings, and disengagement of said guide shaft from said support portions portion~~ is prevented in either axial direction.

21. (Currently Amended) The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18 ~~12~~, wherein said sliding means includes

a rotating member having a cam, said rotating member being adapted to rotate around an axis substantially parallel to a rotational axis of said handle, in cooperation with rotation of said handle, and

a cam-engaging groove provided on said sliding member and extending in a direction intersecting a direction of said spool shaft, said cam-engaging groove engaging said cam.

22. (Currently Amended) The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18 ~~12~~, wherein said shifting means includes

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a worm shaft disposed substantially parallel to said spool shaft, intersecting spiral grooves being formed on a surface of said worm shaft; an intermediate gear fixedly coupled to said worm shaft, said intermediate gear transmitting rotation of said handle to said worm shaft; and an engaging member pivotably accommodated in said sliding member and engaging said worm shaft.